Men Who Have Clerked More Than Forty Years.

SOPHIE HOLMES' FIND

## Adventure of an Honest Darkey Woman Who Discovered a Quarter of a Million.

In the army of the Treasury there are many veterans. Some of the faithfuls of the 'strong box" parallelogram on Fif-teenth street have interacty grown up in the service. They came us youths and maidens, some without the age qualificahome in the banding, after a stetime as assistants to Uncie Sam in his money-making

A man or woman who has been in gov-A man or woman who has been in government service for twenty-five or theiry years is not uncommon. Some have a record of forty-out years behind them. It is a curious fact that in connectant with the Treasury, a department amenable to all the transitions and mutations of succeeding administration, there are so many veterans in continuous service. In the veterans in continuous service. In the War and Navy Departments this is ex-pected, for the appointees are in the main chosen from men who have given their life service to the country and can demand a

reciprocal obligation of support.
Veterans who entered before the war were naturally appointees of a Democratic administration, and their maintenance in their positions is evidence of their faithfulness in their duties, and a recognition thereof, which transcended the small dickerings of politics. Until recent years there has been no protective policy of civil service to shield the incumbents, and, excepting those whose efficiency and honesty had made them invaluable to their bureaus, all had to bow their head to the inflexible, unwritten law, "to the victors belong the

DEAN OF THE VETERANS.

The dean of the veterans and Nestor of the Treasury is E. F. French of the auditing department. Mr. French is a native of New Hampshire, and appears to have been born with the stability of the granite of his native State in his constitution. He is hale and hearty at seventy-seven years of age, active and happy, proud of his record and hopeful of many useful years

He first came into the Treasury in 1848, within two years of half a century ago, the longest continued period of service of any man in government employ. In all that time he has been devotedly regular at his desk and has only had two vaca-tions of any length. Once he was excused to remain at home and entertain a case of malarial fever and at another time to fight pneumonia. These illnesses have left no traces in his ruddy checks, bright eyes

Mr. French has always been a great sportsman and lover of outdoor diversion. When he first came to Washington it was quite a different town from the present city. He says the memory of the old town of a different place, and he some times thinks he is spending the latter half of his life in a new city. It his earlier days he used to hout the plentint duck in the commons and marshes extending to the Eastern Branch from the present East

Capitol and Second streets.

He was one of the organizers of the present League club, or at least of its director ancestor. In November, 1859, Mr. French, Atther Pugh German, then a mail boy, and James Morrill held a seet-ing which resulted in the formation and incorporation of the National Baseball Club

of Washington.

"We were volunteers in those days," said
Mr. French, "but we had fine games and
lots of fun. I recollect when the New
York team first came down; it was a great event. When a foreign team from such a distance complimented us with a visit, we made a festival for them. The players were taken to the theater, on explayers were taken to the theater, on ex-cursions up and down the river, and in-variably we ended up with a big dinner at the Kirkwood House, on the site of the present Raleigh. Later the National Chib became professional and entered the major associations. I think I saw nearly every game until about '72. Since then I've been taking my baseball out of the papers, un-til," he added, with a wink, "the last few days".

few days. Citizens of Washington will remember other members of the French family, Benja-min B. French, a brother of E. F. French, was all his life one of the most conspicuo District Masons. He was clerk of the House in '47 and '48, and president of the first telegraph line from Washington to New Orleans. Another brother, Henry F. French, was for nine years Assistant Sec retary of the Treasury.

Next to Mr. French in continuous service

stands Henry Sproggin, who came into the department in 1857. He has for years handled all the gold which has come into the Treasury. It is unnecessary to say that his labors have been considerably lightened the last few years in proportion, as the burden has been shifted to the clerk who handles SERVICE SINCE 1853.

Third in service of the present incumbents is Thomas J. Bobbes, disbursing clerk. Mr. Hobbes is a Maine man, and came from the piae State in the early '50s, a mere boy. He took a clerkship in the Treasury, and has made bimself invaluable to each succeeding chief whose for tune it was to have him in his office, until his full measure of desserts was served, and by degrees he was promoted to the dignified and responsible position he now holds as disbursing clerk. Mr. Hobbes has not only seen the building of the Treasury expand from the long front on Fifteenth street and projecting wing to the present street and projecting wing to the present extensive pile, but he has day after day seen developed the minutiae of the great financial system which was in his carilest service crude and inconsequential, until now it is a mountain of detail and a marvel of completeness. Though he left Maine as a boy and has lived in Washing-ton for nearly fifty years, he is still proud to have retained through the almost half to have retained through the almost half century his home suffrage. He remains a cluzen of the State of Maine, pays his taxes, interests himself in the politics of his Commonwealth, and even returns occasionally to exercise the dearest politi-

cal prerogative of an American citizen.

Mr. Hobbes entered the department in
April, Mr. H. A. Lockwood followed him in November of the same year. He is from Wisconsin; a citizen of Prairieville, now us to the world as Waukesha. His r named the town and platted the It was afterward changed to its present by force of the fame of its waters Mr. Lockwood has been in the depart ment so long that he has lost track of the locurate date of his entry. He went to a book case of seared and yellow volumes and picking the first on the top shelf brought was to correct the deficiency in his memory. It was the first volume of engrossed pay rolls of the commissioner of customs office and each clerk's signature for galary received. Mr. Lockwood made up the pay roll of the office of commissioner of customs from 1862 to 1894. He was the only man ever to hold the position of deputy commissioner of customs. He was the incumbent from the time the office was instituted until it was abolished in '94 by

VETERANS GONE BEFORE.

NETERANS GONE BEFORE.

Running his finger down that first page open before him Mr. Lockwood commented on some of the criginals of the autographs in the column. "There," said he, "is John D. Barciay. He was the father of the man who wrote "Barciay's Digest." He was in office from his fourteenth to his eighty-first year continuously. And H. J. Anderson, He was afterward governor of Maine, a conspicuous Congression in his day, commissioner of customs and sixt!" anditor of the Treasury. And Phillip Hines. Old Phillip Hines! And Mr. Lockwood paused to laugh over the recollections called up at the sight of this man's name. "He was

a character, was Hines. He used to say 'I wasn't married till I was forty-five, but till I was forty-five, sir. And I have fitteen children, sir; fitteen! Thank the Lead I didn't marry sooner, for no telling how many I would have had. And we never knew when are he was losting or lest serious over thematter. But he continuously amused as with such and kinarred statements."

Director of the Mint R. E. Preston is one of the three fully-threes which include Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Hobbes. He came into government service as a boy, and has known all the Treasurers and Secretaries and prominent men since. Mr. Preston recalled with especial vividness the days of the war whon the Confederates were making stremous endeavors to reach Washington and capture the Treasury. He says the most critical time was the morning after the first battle of Bull Rim when the college comtime was the morning after the first bat-tle of Bull Run, when the soldiers came straugling in, wounded, bleeding, discour-aged, with stories of hopeless outlook. Then it was that from day to day, with the snap-

It was that from day to day, with the snap-ping of scoular and pickets gans across the river, no one felt secure of the morrow. These men stand to the fore as the vet-erans of veterans. When we come down to the consideration of those who have been in the department since 1880, they begin to multiply. Especially conspicuous in the lists are the women. Those who have seen long service are as numerous as their brothers. Best known of all the women, or of the men, either, for that matter, in the department is Sophie Holmes.

A STRANGE ADVENTURE A STRANGE ADVENTURE.

No one who has ever been connected with the Treasury but knows sophie Holmes. Sophie, as she is familiarly and affectionately called by all who know her, entered the Treasury in 1862, one of the first negro women to receive a Federal appointment as a free woman, A part of the lore of the Treasury, and surely the most interesting of all the many curious things that have happened to her, remains her experience one night in the first year of her incumbency.

Sophie was born in Georgetown; the was appointed from that town, and has always appointed from that town, and has always

Sophie was born in Georgetown; she was appointed from that town, and has always lived there. Her first duties where as charwoman, when at 4 o'clock the offices were closed it was her duty to go about with dusier and rag to make presentable the rooms of the clerks. One night the girl-Sophie was only a girl then—was dusting about as usual, when under the tables of one of the clerk's offices she found one of the boxes such as usually held the new bank notes. It was covered over with waste paper, and Sophie at first mistock the heap as a possible contribution over with waste paper, and Sophie at first mistook the heap as a possible contribution for the bonfire. Had she acted on her first impulse the distinction would prop-ably be hers of having built the most ex-pensive small or large bonfire in the his-tory of the world. She was nonplussed, almost stapefied, in her surprise. She was new in her position, and did not know what to do. She did not know which of her fellow-liborers or watch-

and did not know what to do. She did not know which of her fellow-laborers or watch-men to trust, if any. So she simply dusted a way in hopes some one she could depend on would come. It is not of record how many dusters and brooms and rags Sophie wore out that memorable night, but she did keep no her feint of work, unwilling to leave the treasure box to other perhaps untrust worthy hands.

BED OF BANK NOTES. Often the watchman came by to inquire if she was not done, but she only kept to her work and called back "Lor", no; not near." Finally the others thisned and left. The watchman made his last round, forgot Sophie, put out the lights and went the way

of all watchmen—to sleep.

About this time Sophie manifested a sim-Har inclination. She sat down on her mys-terious box, arranged hershort skirts about it so as to conceal the nature of her stool,

and she, too, went to sleep.
Gen. Spinner was at the thue treasurer of
the United States. He was known as the
Watch log of the Treasury. So assiduous was bein his work that not only did be uous was be in his work that not only did he spend his day and evenings in the building, but he had a cot in his office, and there he slept. It was his cautious custom to provi about dering the night to see that all was well. On these journeys he wore lil-fitting carpet slippers, which, as they flapped on the stone corridors, belied the shrewdness of the cautious watchman.

The slippers betrayed his coming. The flip flap even awoke the tired Sophie. She recognized the prowler, and knew it

The flap even awoke the tired Sophie. She recognized the prowler, and knew it was at last one she could trust. So she called him from the darkness. Tradition does not say how astonished the brave general may have been, but he came to Sophie and made inquiry of what she wanted. She handed over to him the box she had guarded. Together they went and roused the watchmen and they went to a safety room. There the box was securely locked, and Sophie went, home to George-town, weary after her faithful vigil. When she came next day Gen. Spinner told her that she had guarded over a quar-

ter of a million of new money, and for her taithfulness he appointed her to the posi-tion which she has held ever since. Sophie is modest of her famous adventure, and feels that she deserves no com-mendation fordoing whatan shonest woman should. She handles daily as much money as she guarded that night in '82, and her chiefs look upon her as one of the most trustworthy employes of the department, SOME OF THE OTHERS.

A complete list would entail a canvess of the labyrinth of the Treasury, and a personal interview with cach of the cierks. Phose mentioned have been the longest in service. In the middle sixtles there were many changes which brought in new

copie, some of whom remain. Sumper I, Kimball, Chief of the Life Savings Bureau, has been in the department since 1862; Mrs. Lydin E. Rosenberg, made her entree in 1863; "Aunt Louisa" Hill, who may be seen daily at the head of the first stairs in the northeast corner, has been in the department so long that she forgets when she came; of the veterans of 64, there are George W. Maher, of the special agent's division; Henry K. Lever, Charles H Buxton, Miss Susan Dugger, Miss Frances S. Hoey, Mrs. Villa Leonard, Carl Stierlein, Alexander Marshall and Henry K. Weaver E. B. Daskin, of the independent reasury, camein 65. S.N. Buynitsky came from Russia and entered the department in 1868. Had he remained at home he would have succeeded to a title and rank mong the nobility.

The surface of the crust of the earth is divided by a German scientist into live regions, as follows: The culminating area of the earth's crust, occupying 6 per cent of the surface and lying altogether above 1,000 meters, with a mean height of 2,200 meters, or 7,200 feet above the sea. The face from the 1,060-meter contour line of elevation to the 200-meter contour line of elevation to the 200-meter contour line of depth, i. e., to the margin of the shallow sea border or continental shelf. It comprises 28.3 per cent of the surface, and has a mean elevation of 250 meters, or 800 feet, above the sea. The continental slope, from a depth of 200 meters to 2,300 below sea level, covers 9 per cost of the earth's surface, and has a mean depth of 1,300 meters, or 4,300 feet. The oceanic plateau, between the depths of 2,300 and 5,000 meters, occupies no less than 53.7 per of the surface, and has a mean depth of 4,100 meters, or 13,500 feet. Finally, the depressed area, deeper than 5,000 meters, is depressed area, deeper than 5,000 meters, is assumed to occupy 3 per cent of the surface, with a mean depth of 6,000 meters, say 20,000 feet.—Exchange.

A Historic Tree

A recent windstorm in Kentucky blew down a large red elm known as the "Dickinson tree." It was situated on the ground whereon the famous Jackson-Dickinson duel was fought in 1866. Underthis tree Charles Dickinson reclined while awaiting medical aid after having been mortally wounded by Andrew Jackson. In this duel "Old Hickory" received a wound from the effects of which he never recovered.—Exchange.

The Spirit of Organization.
Teacher-Wille, you are to stay in after school and do three extra examples.
Wille-What! And git put out of the scholars' Union for workin' overtime? I will, I don't think!-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mr. Dun (unpaid bill in his mouth)—When shall I call again; Mr. Owens?
Mr. Owens—Well, it would hardly be proper for you to call again until I have returned the present call.

Washington Minute Men Will Soon Hold a Reunion.

READY FOR THE INVADERS

Company Was Organized One Month Before Commencement of Hostilities by Patriotic Young Men,

the incentive which has suggested a reunion of the District of Columbia Minute Men, who first responded to their country's call to arms. The uniform is a relic of the

call to arms. The uniform is a relic of the stirring days of '61, when military Washington was on the alert to protect the nation's capital. It was worn by a member of Company A, Second Battalion, Union Regiment of the District militia.

This company was the first body of troops mustered mo the United States service for the decense of the Union. While other bodies of troops from the States were hurrying toward Washington, in response to President Lincoln's call for defenders of the flag, Company A had already been sworn in, and was doing effective duty guarding first the public buildings and then the approaches to the city. So that, in fact, it can be said to be the very first organized military flody at the front in the service of the government, for in those stirring days Washington City was at the forering days Washington City was at the fore FIRST COMPANY ORGANIZED.

The resurrected uniform of Company A is, therefore, of unusual historical interest, as being worn by one of the first defenders. It was brought to light by Detective Sergt. Robert Johnson, of police headquarters, who was one of the brayest members of the old company.

This company was organized about one mouth before the commencement of loss.

mouth before the commencement of hos-thities by a number of patriotic Washing-tonians, who foresaw trouble between the North and South. They heard the onlinous mutterings of war and on the distant hori-

multerings of war and on the distant horison saw the lightning flashes.

The meeting place of Company A was
in old Ter perance Hall, on E street, between Shint and Tenth streets northwest.
This was their armory and drillroom.
The company soon reached a membership
of 130 of the best young men in the city.
E. C. Carrington was chosen captain,
with Harry Curtis, first lieutenant, Shell-

three heats, and at the finish the gray was the only one in it, the rest just coming into the streich; time, 2:20 1-4. This dream I can vouch for, as I saw the letter weeks before the race took place, says Tony Reek in Trotter and Pacer.

Another gentieman who was aleeping at an inn beside the track where his horses were stabled dreamed that he saw the window of the stail containing a valuable young horse being steatthily opened from the outside. Then fire flashed and fell among the straw, revealing the horses in a state of ferror, pawing and sporting loudly.

The dream was so vivid that he awoke and fancied he could in reality hear the horse striking the walls of his stail. He partially dressed and ran out, and not a moment too soon. Some miscreant hands had thrown a cioth burning and soaked with oil in through the window. This had ignited theatraw, and in a few seconds more the horsemust have perished, though fortungtely as it was he was but alightly injured.

THE UNMARRIED MAN.

Twelve Reasons Why a Man Should

1. If a man is naturally selfish, for go pess' sake let tim always look after No. 1. is the advice given in the London Tit-Rits. 2. If his mother is the best cook in the world, let himistop with her. 3. If, whenever he opens his mouth, he

is always putting his foot in it, be had better bever propose to a girl.

4. If he is a thorough miser, it were better for sum to remain singularly miser-

able.

5. If he is generally a woman-hater, let him become a hermit in the late of Man.

6. If he detests children and calls them pests, he is evidently uncivilized and unworthy to frequent the haunts of a civilized community.

7. If hysically and constitutionally and

worthy to frequent the haunts of a civilized community.

7. If physically and constitutionally unfitted for matrimony, it is nothing less than
criminal for him to marry.

8. If a man is blessed with a good sister
to whom he is unkind and even cruel, he is
certainly unsuitable for a purtner to any
one else's sister.

9. If a man is earning less salary than
the woman whom he mixth force to marry

9. If a man is earning less sainry than the woman whom he might care to marry is earning, let him not marry her.

10. If a man would be likely to prefer after marriage the company of club associates and the pleasures of the billiard table to the sweet companionship of a ballowed happiness of a home, let him refrain from thinking of marrying.

11. If a man will be unable to maintain a wife as comfortably as she has been

a wife as comfortably as she has been used to, and unless he has something saved toward future unforseen eventualities, he had better remain a buchelor, for when

Uncle Sam's Officers Experimenting With an Airship.

MOVEMENTS KEPT SECRET

It Is Not Desirable That Other Nations Should Learn of the Progress Being Made in This Direction.

One of the most interesting equipm of the United States army is a balloon now at Fort Logan, Col. So conspicuous ture warfare that one official in the War Department has been directed to devote his entire time and the whole of his energles towarn the advancement of agrial loca

The name of this officer is not known, however. He is on the staff of General orcely, this I signating officer of the army and of North Pole exploration fame. It is natural that his identity should be kept as secret as possible. In time of peace no general cares to disclose his plans to a possible enemy any more than he would think of publishing every move he intended in time of hostilities.

Though this country was the first to in-roduce the balloon into practical use in time of war it has not since advanced as some others have done.

VALUABLE IN TIMES OF WAR. Balloous are valuable in times of war.

"Ballooms are valuable in times of war," said Capt. Craig of Gen. Greely's department to a Times reporter, "in order that the commanding officer or his aids may see the ground of the enemy. No project for such observation has yet been presented that will equal the balloon.

"They are divided into two kinds, captive balloons and dirigible balloons. The former is the only kind in generaluse. This is raised immediately over the camp and held in place by a rope or cable. The commanding officer, or an aid, makes the ascent. With a glass, he looks over the camp of the enemy. If hostilities are then in actual progress, he directs his subordinates by means of telegraph or telephone, for he is in electrical communication with them. Messages and drawings may also be sent up and down the cubic or rope that holds the monster captive.

holds the monster captive.

'The only country that is yet known to have yet made use of the dirigible balloon

from one point in the field to another by a movement of the reel carriage.

The solution of the problem of how to fill the balloon is only of recent data. One of the chief reasons why they were not more frequently and effectually used during the late war was because it required almost an entire day to manufacture the gas on the field. Apparatus for speedily making ghas is now part of Uncie Sam's balloon depart-ment supplies.

in the supplies.

It is compressed in steel cylinders that are ransported over the territory on the recursion. The capacity of each cylinder benefits foot of air under normal conditions to the control of the control

one cubic foot of air undernormal conditions. The guais compressed to such a degree, however, that from 120 to 200 cubic feet can be stored in each cylinder.

Upon first observation it would seem that the practicability of the bulloon would be suddenly and ignominiously cut short by a few bullets from the rifles of some of the sharpshooters. But such is not the case, and the martial aeronant has little to fear unless perchance a bullet should do him personal injury. The rent made by the missile does little damage. Still more important is the fact that all of the bullet little are on the undernicle, while the main

NO DANGER FROM BULLETS.

The balloon has then really only one enemy, the army men say, and that is not a formidable one. It is the cannon. The effect a shell would have on the great bag is readly imaginable. Yet it would, in most cases, be impossible to use a cannon or mortar without digging a hole in the ground in order to secure the proper angle while the balloon is at a high allitude. This would be slow and difficult work, and it is not to be supposed that the balloonist, who has such an excellent birdaser view of all below him, would be insensible to the intent of his enemies. On discovery of the danger he could easily dispatch to his friends below, and a slight change in the position of the balloon would necessitate a complete reversion of the cannon's position in the enemy's camp. NO DANGER FROM BULLETS.

complete reversion of the cannon's position in the enemy's camp.

It is considered that an altitude of about 4,300 yards will put a balloon outside the effective range of field artillery, without being so far off that it prevents the point which it is desired to examine being distinguishable. In a femous trial made by the Austrians about one year ago an aggregate of 10,000 bullets and shells were fired at a balloon during the course of the experiments, and when all was over the great object floated as sevenely as when the firing first began.

object floated as serenely as when the firing first began.

It is generally conceded that this government is still slow in advancing money for the carrying out of scientific projects. Repeatedly bills have been introduced in Congress to raise money to assist some inventor in carrying out the solution of the balloon question. The latest bill was submitted June 1 of this year. It was simultaneously offered by Benator Peffer in the Senate and Representative Merchith of Virginia in the House.

It provided that the government should advance to James Selion Cowdon of Vienna, Fairfax county, Va., the sum of \$15,000, to be used for the construction of a balloon.

to be used for the construction of a balloon. It was pointed out in the bill that the gov-ernment had assisted Samuel F. B. Morse in his scientific experiments. Neither bill

was ever reported upon.

A bill to the same effect was once intro-duced by Senator Cockrell, and a report followed, but it was not passed upon in

CANDID ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Felt That He Was Not Without Res sons for Being Proud.

He is the young a an who writes the newspaper advertisements for a large mer, anule firm. He writes them well, too, and enjoys life as is the privilege of a man who has successfully applied himself to his buriness. Among a number of friends with whom he was talking was one whose long acquiring angle of the provilege for long acquaintance makes it possible for thin to say things which would be resented by other people, says the Detroit Free

"it seems to me," remarked the friend,
"that you are a very lucky person,"
"Well," was the reply, "that is what the
envious always say of a man who makes
a success of literature. I have no doubt
that remark has been made of nearly every
man who has worked hard and finally
prospered,"
"You seem to take a rather serious
view of your calibe."

view of your calling."
"I have to. It means shoes and neckties and house rent and three meals a day and lots of other little things that make high Still, I don't think it is very much to be

proud of,"
"Perhaps not. I struggle with my selfesteem every now and then,"
"Well, this period of civilization has
certainly produced strange denands,"
"That's it. There's the keynote of the When I reflect that I am making a good living in an era when Shakespeare or Lord Byron would probably walk the streets in vain, looking for a job, I tell you I can't help getting a little-bit proud, and I might just as well own up to it."

THE WILY SEAL.

How He Manages to Catch Sea Gulls Unawares.

The seal is probably the clumsiest animal in the world, says the New York Recorder. He liges to bask in the sun all day and when he moves he is exceedingly sluggish and awkward. It has often been wondered how this animal manages to secure its favorite food, wild sea fowl.

Sea gulls are so wild that it is difficult to the food of which we food the secure its same and the secure its difficult of the secure its same and the same and the secure its same and the

even for man to get within gunshot of one. The seal seems to realize that it would be a waste of time to attempt to crawi up on the guils as they rest upon the water and catch them unawares. So he watches until the guils are souring slowly through the are und close to the water and the guils are souring slowly through the

Then the seal dives into the sea and swims Then the seal dives into the sea and swims underneath the water for some distance. By the time he has managed to swim about a hundred feet the guil has forgotten the presence of its enemy. This gives the seal his opportunity. He cautiously rises to the surface of the water at some distance from the point at which he dived, and allows merely the tip of his great nose to appear above the water.

Remaining in this position, he gives he enormous body a rotary motion, so that his mose describes a circle on the surface of the

enormous body a rotary motion, so that his nose describes a circle on the surface of the ocean. He does this so skillfully that to the gull his nose looks like a fish at play. This catches the gull's eye, and it at once darts thown with the speed of an arrow, aiming straight for the little dot. The seal sees it coming and sinks a few-inches, and as the gull strikes the water-with tremendous force the seal's jaws close fipward and the gull disapears.

Menelik's Present.

One of the first things that strikes the visitor to the Bible House in London is a magnificent pair of elephant's tusks presented by Menelik II, Emperor of Abyssinia, when Menelik came to the throne the Bible Society committee sent him a specially-bound copy of the Scriptures in his native tongue, and offered to replace in the churches and houses the Bibles destroyed by the Dervishes. The emperor's gift was accompanied by a letter, the seal of which bears this inscription in Amharic: "The lion of the tribe of Judah hath conquered,"—Philadelph in Press.

Electric Fishing.

It is said that in Spain electric fishing a to be carried on on a large scale. A spanish company has taken out patents in Spain covering the use of the electric ight for this purpose. The same scheme as been tried with some success in Cali-tornia, where a net was fitted with electric lights. It proved very attractive to the fish, which had previously been rather wary of entering the nets.—Chicago Chron-

Preoccupation.

Mother (severely)—May, did I see Mr.
Dashaway stroking your lists on the plazza
last evolung?

May—Yes, ma, but that's only force of

Mother-Habit! What do you me May-Why, he stroked his college on know.-New York Press. Two Points of View.

e—How futrof his subject our pastor
this morning!

—Tes, and how slow he as in emptyhimself!—Truth.

SKILLED IN STATECRAFT

British and Venezuelan Minis-

ters Stick to Their Desks.

These Gentlemen Have Made Enviable Reputations in This Country-Both Very Popular.

Sir Julian Pauncefote and Don Jose Andrade, the representatives, respectively, of Great Britain and Venezuela, are two of the bardest-working diplomats in Washing-

There is a popular impression that a diplonat at Washing ton leads a diretante life,
idling his time away in the foshionable
clubs, and devoting the remainder of his
waking hours to the distractions of society. While this is true of certain legations, with whose countries the United
States has little in common, outside of our
commercial relations, it is not true of all.
One of the notable exceptions is the British
ambassador, who receives sixty days' vacation each year, and devotes the remaining
ten months to the multifarious duties of an
office which requires not only the highest
order of diplomatic skill, but a capacity for
hard work, which would tax the energies
of the most robust.

numerous are the questions constantly arising which call for prompt and tactful arising which call for prompt and tactful settlement that the post of British ambas-sador at Washington is now one of the most coveted within the gift of the London for-eign office. The ambassador to America ranks in importance with the English am-bassadors at Paris, St. Petersburg, Berlin and Constantinople, and overshadows hes majesty's representatives at all the other great capitals of Europe and the east.

WASHINGTON A GOOD POST. WASHINGTON A GOOD POST.

In times past Washington was the bete noire of the trained diplomatist, whether he represented the constitutional monarchy of England or the royal houses of the great continental powers. But times have changed. Washington is now not only a delightful place of residence, but the discharge of diplomatic duties here requires talents of the first rank, so that one's assignment to this post is now a decided mark of distinction.

A very interesting man is Sir Julian Pauncefote, with his fine English face, framed in gray side whiskers, whose deep blue eyes twinkle with good humor as he

blue eyes twinkle with good humor as he speaks. He is a man somewhat past the meridian of life, who carries himself well, and who represents the best type of the English gentleman.

Sir Julian lives in a handsome brick residence at the corner of Connecticut avenue and N street, a fashionable thoroughfare always, but made especially so since the British government purchased the premises and erected the presenthandsome structure. Here Sir Julian lives with his wife and his three clever daughters—fresh, whoiehis three clever daughters-fresh, whole his three clever daughters-fresh, whois-some, robust young women, every one of them-having no rent to pay and a large staff of servants, also furnished by the government, to wait upon him. He re-ceives in addition a salary of \$40,000 a year and manages to live comfortably and keep the traditional wolf from the door without unteresting exertion.

They are very agreeable people, these

without unbessary exertion.

They are very agreeable people, these Pauncefotes, and they are highly esteemed in America, for their acquaintance is not limited to the boundaries of the District of Columbia, but extends to the "smart" sets of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and others of the fushionable eastern centers.
They are invited out a great deal, and they
do considerable entertaining in return.
These entertainments usually take the form of dinner parties, which all society people now effect as being more exclusive than the big teas and receptions of years

than the hig teas and receptions of years ago.

The British embassy is well adapted to dinner giving, and frequently as many as twenty-four guests are entertained in that way. On these occasions the massive gold service presented to the embassy by Queen Victoria some years ago is brought into remisition, and when around this are gathered many of the most distinguished men and women in American social and robites.

and women in American social and political life the effect is brilliant in the extreme. The United States has no better friend among the foreign residents at the capital than Sir Julian Pauncefote. Although a loyal son of Britain, who has been repeatedly honored by the queen, he has still a hearty appreciation of America and the American people.

A year ago, when it was whispered about that he was to be transferred to Paris

that he was to be transferred to Paris, which is the most important diplomatic post in the British service, he explained to the writer that, while he would appre-ciate the bonor, he hoped that the report was not true and that he might be per-

WANTS TO REMAIN HERE. "I fived for many years of my life in for-cign countries," said he, "and I can't ex-press to you how great a satisfaction it was to be stationed at Washington, where I can hear the English language spoken. Next to England, there is no country so attractive, either to my family or myself, as the United States. I should be glad to find my dislomatic course. end my diplomatic career at Washington, and shall do so if I am permitted any choice in the malter.

Sir Julian was not speaking for publica-tion, and it would be unfair, therefore, to doubt the sincerity of his atterances. It to doubt the sincerity of his utterances. It was a casual remark made during a private conversation, and obviously not intended to be printed. It is repeated here not from any desire to betray his confidence, but in order that the readers of this paper should know for themselves the esteem in which they and their country are held by the dean of the diplomatic corps at Washington. Sir Julian ridicules the possibility of war het ween the United States and Great Britain. He does not believe it is possible. He is certain that nothing coald force Great Britain into a war with the United States.

Britain into a war with the United States, except it be a defensive war, and then only to retain her self-respect.

BENOR ANDRADE POPULAR. Senor Andrade, the Venezuelan minister, like his English colleague, has also an engaging personality. He is about fifty years old and a widower.

One of his daughters, Teresa, a lovely girl of eighteen, was married a few weeks since in this city to a young German who is engaged in hasiness in her intity course.

girl of eigenteen, was charried a few weeks since in this city to a young German who is engaged in husiness in her native country. The Andrades have been in Washington only a few years, but in that time they have become very popular.

The minister is a born diplomat, He was educated for the bar, but has represented Venezuela in a number of different countries. He has handled the delicate questions arising between this country and England with rare skill and adroitness. He is highly esteemed by Secretary Oiney, who during their intimate acquaintance of the past twelve months has learned to appreciate fully the Venezuelan minister's admirable diplomatic qualities.

All the South American countries regard the United States as their "hig brother of the north," as they phrase it, and the mission at Washington, therefore, is always conferred upon their best men. Mr. Andrade raily deserves the confidence which not only President Crespo, but President Cieveland as well, reposes in him.

The Doctor and the Lawyer. "Now you know the details of the ar-fair," said the doctor to the lawyer a few days later. "What would you advise me to

do about it?"

"Go back to your practice," replied the lawyer promptly. "You have no case. Ten dollars, please."

"Now that I have told you the symptoms," said the lawyer to the doctor a few days later, "what would you adviso me. to do?"

"Go back to your practice," replied the physician promptly. "You have nothing seriously wrong with you. Ten dollars, please."

Thus it happens that two men are calling each other robbers—Chicago Post,

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Gen. Spinner Finds Sophie Holmes.

ross, second fleutenant, and Young Ward. a son of the well-known lumber merchant, third heutenant. These officers were the choice of the organization.

BWORN INTO SERVICE.

On April 10, 1861, inspeciately after President Lincoln's first call for troops, Company A, 130 muskets strong, mustered at the armory and with beating drams and the Stars and Stripes fluttering in the breeze, marched to the front of the War Department, then situated in the old Winder building on Seventeenth street. After the District minute men had been drawn up to be sworn in, Gen. Scott, commanderin-chief of the Union army, came out of the Department and in person superintended the taking of the oath by the first soldiers who had entered Uncle Sam's service in this city to protect government property and repel invaders to the capital.

After being mustered in Company A was SWORN INTO SERVICE.

repel invaders to the capital.

After being mustered in Company A was assigned to quarters in the Patent Office, and guards were detailed at the other public buildings. The company next guarded Long Bridge and later on Chain Bridge. It was then sent up the Potomac to Darnestown, near Harper's Ferry. While in that vicinity the buttalion to which Company

vicinity the buttalion to which Company A was attached, had a skirmish with the Black Horse Cavalry, commanded by the dashing Gen. Ashby. Company A was organized nearly two months before President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men, and after doing active and efficient service for three months, was mus-tered out. Many of the members then en-tered regiments from different States in the infantry, cavalry and artillery branches.

the infantry, cavalry and artillery branches, and served throughout the war. Some of them became officers and carned distinction on many hard-fought fields.

Among the members of Company A who are still alive are Wash. B. Williams, who was the captain's clerk; Detective Sergeant Robert Johnson. Peyton Scrivener, John Sinsel, Harry Parker, now an inmate of the Hampton Soldiers' Home; Second Lieut. Shellcross, John Culverwell, Cissell, Harmon Davis, George C. Harris, Marion Fenwick, J. T. Sheld and Paul Burke.

DREAMS ABOUT HORSES

Valuable Animal Saved by His Own er's Vivid Dream.

er's Vivid Dream.

Dreams, like girls, "are queer," and dreams wherein horses figure largely take rank among the queerest. I shall give a few dreams, not of "fair women," but of horses, told one day between heats. In the year eighteen hundred and ninety something a gentleman entered a promising pacer for a race to come off some time during the summer. He was speeding the horse on the last of the snow, and wrote to his wife, who was visiting in a distant town, that his prospects for a race horse were rosy.

town, that his prospects for a race horse were rosy.

That night the lady, although not especially an admirer of horses, dreamed that she was sitting in the stand watching the finish of the race wherein her husband's horse was to take part. Replying to the letter, she said that his horse would win the race, the last heat several lengths ahead of a gray horse, the only other one she saw in her dream, and that the judge amnounced the time 2:20 1-4.

The letter caused a good deal of amusement in the family during the months pre-

poverty comes is at the door love flies out of the window.

12. If he would be unwilling to frankly and candidly tell before marriage everything of his past life, which, in the event of his marrying, would, if found out, cause endless trouble and lifelong unhappiness, let him, by all means, remain single.

WOMEN AT OXFORD.

Three Kinds of Certificates Are Issued to Them.

Issued to Them.

The council of the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford has decided, pending the revival of the agitation for conferring the bachelor of arts degree on women, to issue certificates to those of its students who have complied with certain conditions of examination and residence, says the London Times.

They will be of three kinds, but it will be essential for all that residence shall have been kept in Oxford and a class obtained in an Oxford honor examination. The first will be given for the strict bachelor of arts course with full residence. The second will be given for a course approved by the council of the association as an alternative to the degree course. Three examinations will be obligatory and twelve terms residence, but there will be no limits of standing. For the third eight terms residence, for the third eight terms residence. be obligatory and twelve terms' residence, but there will be no limits of standing. For the third eight terms' residence will be sufficient, and an intermediate examination will not be required. The certificates will bear the signatures of the president of the association and the principal of the college, ball, or other body to which the student belongs and will be issued only to students whose names have been on the books of the association during the requisite period of residence. have been on the books of the association during the requisite period of residence. By the present rules of the association no student can be placed or remain on the books unless she is a member of Lady Margaret Hall, Somerville College, St. Hugh's Hall, or the Body of Home Students, but provision has been made for the recognition, under certain conditions.

of new halls. Struck It the First Time.

"Has your beroise satin skin, velvel "It in. "Then I don't see why it shouldn't be a uccess."-Tid iBits.

Why She Didn't Laugh.
Said little Rantic Chaffie: "Mamms
this is the place where some little gir
were walking, and one of them fell dow
and burt hersel, and they all laughed e "And why Most you laugh, Faunie?"
"Because I was the little girl that fell down and hart menelf."—Texas Sifter.

Heavesity Voices.

Mrs. Casey-Barrigan's daughter is turnin'out for a medium. She do be heariny voices in the upper air, they tell me.

Casey-I hear tilm every day meself.

Sometimes they yells "Mortarl" and sometimes "Brick! "-Cincinnat Enquires."

is France. This is a movable balloon, capable of going from place to place at the will of some person or persons. In the years 1884 '85 the French army experimented with this sort of a balloon and were quite successful. It is known that in five out of seven ascents the machine was made to sail fourteen miles and back again at the will of the manipulator.

"We have no information, though, as to how the balloon operates. Of course, the French would want to keep their secret, and they have been successful. It is almost certain that the machine was driven by a small, light engine. Since then the

CAN CARRY DYNAMITE. "Not only may the dirigible balloon serve as a car for observation, but it may be used to carry dynamite and other high explosives over the camp of an enemy. It is thought the Germans have them, to

You are doubtless of the opinion, the that the day is coming when the manageable air-ships will be at band," asked the re

under the province of the Signal Service Corps. The one balloon at Fort Logan is used as a sort of training school, where those enlisted in the corps are taught balloon culture. It is intended eventually to make every signaling man familiar with the use of the balloon.

It is not conceived how any great technical knowledge or training is necessary to fit one to manipulate, or assist in manipulating, the balloon. It is an ordinary one, just like the aeronaut uses who entertains

telegraph instrument. Experiments with the telephone have been hardly so fruitful as with the telegraph, and as a consequence every member of the Signal Service Corps in the army has been called upon or will be called upon to study telegraphy until he can readily transmit and send messages.

the communicating wire from balloon camp runs down the rope or cable that prevents the airship from escaping. This connection is either of plain manilla rope or of steel wire. When constructed of wire, as it more frequently is, the beingraph wires are properly insulated and made to form the center of the fine metallic threads that go to make up the long cable.

of course, a reel is a necessary adjunct to the terrestrial end of the equipment. This is fitted to a wagon that is constructed to carry the balloon and all attendant apparatus, and if the wind is

most certain that the machine was driven by a small, light engine. Since then the French inventors have occupied themselves with the question of motor power. Their balloon, too, had a cigar-shaped car below the gas receptacle.

though they have never made known their secret, if they have, Foreign countries furnish their armies plenty of money for

porter.
Capt. Craig shrugged his shoulders, and answered, "I am."
As already stated, the experiments being made in this country at the present time fail under the province of the Signal Service

just like the aeronaut uses who entertains the patrons of country fairs and summer resorts with his thrilling parachute leaps. The great bug is fitted with a basket capable of halding two passengers, and a few delicate instruments.

Chief of the latter is a telephone or telegraph instrument.

FILLING THE BALLOON